

101 Critical Days: Today marks beginning of safety season

DON'T LET SPRING STORMS BLOW YOU AWAY

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SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The thunderstorm ends, and the sky turns a sickly greenish-black hue. A strange quiet is broken by the sound of a waterfall, although none is near. Clouds sprint past converging in the distance.

Giant voice erupts from a nearby loud-speaker, and as the tornado warning is announced, the thunderous sound of rushing air begins to resemble a railroad train or a jet engine. A couple of miles away, debris flies from the ground up toward the dark clouds.

Several Air Force Space Command bases are susceptible to tornadoes. None are completely safe. The odds of surviving an encounter with these wind funnels increase dramatically, however, when people know the correct actions to take before and during the storm, according to safety officials.

Tornado facts:

- Every year, tornadoes cause approximately \$1.1 billion in damages in the United States.
- Wyoming ranks 26 in the country for number of tornadoes annually.

Recognizing tornado potential:

- A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.
- If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger sign. Hail can be common in some areas, however, and usually has no tornadic activity along with it.
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after a thunderstorm.
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- A sound like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.
- Debris dropping from the sky.
- An obvious funnel-shaped, rotating cloud, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards, even if no funnel cloud is visible.

(Information for this article was obtained from the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Center for Atmospheric Research and <http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/safety.htm>.)

Good wingmen know what to do to keep you safe

Master Sgt. Eric Rider
Safety office

Once again summer is here for the 90th Space Wing and it is time to talk about the most dangerous time of the year, the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer 2005 campaign begins today at 4 p.m. and ends Sept. 6. at 7 a.m. During last year's campaign, the Air Force experienced 32 fatalities, one of which was at Warren. As in past years, motor vehicle fatalities accounted for most of the losses: 12 to auto mishaps and another 11 to motorcycle mishaps. Some of the factors in these mishaps included speeding, not using seatbelts or helmets, and alcohol.

Most of us quickly forget about these summer campaigns once they're finished. Those who never forget are the loved ones of the Airmen we lose. Many times they express that if only a friend had been with their loved one, the mishap may never have happened.

The Air Force also believes there is safety in numbers. This concept, though old, is still valid today and is good throughout the year. It is the "wingman" concept.

"The wingman concept goes back to World War I when pilots discovered that attacking in formations provided much more mutual support than attacking a target on their own," said Col. Wally Scales, United States Air Force Europe Safety director.

"With a primary leader and a dedicated wingman, they discovered their survival and success rates were much better. Throughout aviation history this concept has evolved, but the basic philosophy has not changed."

"Wingman is a concept of making a commitment to take care of each other, on-and off-duty," continued Colonel Scales.

It's fairly easy to see how this works in combat, but how do we apply this concept to our everyday lives?

Being a good wingman means

knowing what to do, and be willing to act to protect your fellow Airmen. A good wingman is alert to danger. They speak up and state their concerns before it's too late. They get help for their friends, when needed. Never let intimidation by your peers keep you from standing up for what you think is right. Too many Airmen wish they had a second chance to do the right thing.

Make a commitment to take that next step. Get your wingman and hangout together. Get involved in some of the base programs such as intramural sports or the new paint ball league. Take trips with outdoor recreation or watch your favorite movie at Dorm Escape. Warren even has a motorcycle club called "Missileers On Bikes" open to all base members.

You will discover that some of the best times are spent with your fellow Airmen. So get out and enjoy the summer and don't forget your wingman.



BBQ 'best practices'

Don't let your burger burn get out of hand

Tech. Sgt. Steve Goetsch
Public affairs

One of the things that symbolizes summer, are the scents coming from a juicy, marinated steak sizzling on the grill.

Coinciding with the summer and grilling season, are the 101 Critical Days of Summer. This program extends to all of our activities, and that includes barbecuing.

Without adhering to some good common-sense practices, your summer could come to an abrupt halt.

"Everyone loves backyard barbecuing, so we light up grills about three billion times a year. Unfortunately, though, our good times can be spoiled if we are not careful," said John Dregenber

g, manager of consumer affairs for Underwriter's Laboratories Inc.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, outdoor grilling causes more than 600 accidental fires and explosions, and costs consumers \$5 million in property damage each year.

The 90th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department has some good advice for the rookie as well as sea-

soned outdoor culinary master.

Before you buy that rack of ribs or T-bone steak, just like your vehicles and bicycles, you have to do an annual inspection on your grill before you fire it up.

For gas grills, make sure you check all of the hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Also check the hoses for obstructions.

Make sure the grill body does not have any rust on it, especially where the leg mounts are.

The last thing you need is to have hot coals dumped on a child or the family pet.

After you hook up the gas, check the integrity of the connection by following the manufacturers instructions. Never check leaks with a lit match! Do not laugh, It has

been attempted.

Warren Fire chief, John McDougall, has responded several times to propane fires caused by weathered high-pressure lines between the propane tank and the grill burner.

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– Chief John McDougall
Warren fire chief



Photo by Airman 1st class Tessa Cubbon

said Chief McDougall.

There are five simple rules you can follow to enjoy summer grilling.

1. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.
2. Never leave the grill unattended, especially when young children or pets are nearby.
3. Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire.
4. Never attempt to restart a flame by adding additional lighting fluid to an already-lit grill, as this will cause a flare-up.
5. Dispose of charcoal away from kids and pets, and cool it down with a hose. Coals get up to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, so be sure to use insulated, flame-retardant mitts, or long-handled barbecue tongs.

If you live in base housing there aren't only safety tips but specific rules you need to follow.

These are all a part of Air Force Instruction 32-2001, and 90th Space Wing supplement 1.

The things to comply with are:
1. No barbecuing equipment will be used within five feet of any Air

Force facility.

2. You will not operate barbecues in garages or under overhangs of the base housing unit.

3. Storage of lighter fluids on base will be stored in the garage.

Deputy Fire Chief Delbert Hammond, has some additional words of wisdom for Warren barbecuer's. "It's a good idea to enforce a "kid-free zone of 36" around the grill. Also, keep your pets from underfoot.

He also recommends buying reliable equipment. "If you are buying a grill, ensure you only buy equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory," said Mr. Hammond. "Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instruction on how to set up the grill as well as maintain it," said Mr. Hammond.

If you remember these basic common-sense rules, and always pay close attention to that grill, you can enjoy a great summer of barbecuing and you won't have to serve hockey pucks to your friends and family.